Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/689 772	LIPPONS, CHRISTIAAN A.C.
Examiner	Art Unit
Matt Luby	3611
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.	
1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 5/09/05.	
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>3-7</u> .	
3. The drawings filed on <u>21 October 2003</u> are accepted by the Examiner.	
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.	
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.	
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d). 	
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.	
6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Dat 8), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendn	e
	Examiner Matt Luby ars on the cover sheet with the coording or other appropriate communication GHTS. This application is subject to and MPEP 1308. 5/09/05. Examiner. der 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). been received. been received in Application Nocuments have been received in this formulation. atted. Note the attached EXAMINER's reason(s) why the oath or declarate to be submitted. on's Patent Drawing Review (PTO- Amendment / Comment or in the Communication of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL in FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL in FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL Statements of Informatical Paper No./Mail Date 18, 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendments Statements Statement



REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose a ball hitch with a ball element having a part-spherical outer surface and cylindrical bore, a socket element constructed as a sleeve having a par-spherical inner surface where the ball element is receiving, an entry groove provided on the inner surface of the sleeve and an annular flange provided on one end of the sleeve to protect the underside of the drawbar from wear.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matt Luby whose telephone number is (571) 272-6648. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6612. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 10/689,772

Art Unit: 3611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matt Luby Examiner Page 3

Art Unit 3611

M.I. June 13, 2005